

EPA ISSUES \$29,510 PENALTY TO KING COUNTY, FILES COMPLAINT WITH OPERATOR, FOR PCB VIOLATIONS AT BELLEVUE DAYCARE CENTER

Contact: Daniel Duncan, PCB Program Coordinator

As part of an ongoing effort to reduce exposure and potential health effects from contact with Polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has settled a Toxic Substance Control Act Complaint for \$29,510 with King County. The settlement followed an investigation of PCB contamination from leaking light fixtures at a daycare center located at 609 112th Avenue SE, Bellevue, Washington. At the time of the investigation, the facility was owned by King County and operated by a lessee named Surrydowns Children Center.

According to Scott Downey, EPA TSCA enforcement manager, daycare owners and operators need to be especially vigilant to protect children from exposure.

"Owners and operators of places like schools and daycares really need to 'go the extra mile' to insure that any PCB contamination is recognized and cleaned-up right away. We can't gamble with kid's health," says Downey.

The investigation began in July 2004 when EPA was notified by a King County health inspector that there were potential PCB-laden leaking light ballasts at Surrydowns. EPA inspectors then visited the facility, obtained samples, and submitted them to a laboratory for analysis.

The lab results confirmed there was substantial leakage of liquid PCBs throughout the facility including the main office and in pre-school, kindergarten, and after-school areas. PCBs well-above the regulated level of 50 parts per million (ppm) were found in fluorescent light trays, in a plastic container on the floor, and on a carpeted floor.

****** Karen – include a health statement here?**

Shortly after EPA's notification to King County and the Surrydowns operator in August, the facility was closed. The County subsequently spent \$81,500 to clean up and dispose of the PCBs under an EPA-approved plan.

"EPA was really pleased to see the quick response by King County in closing and cleaning up the facility. They really stepped up to the plate and shared our concern in taking every precaution for the safety of the children, staff, and parents," Downey said.

Although the case is now settled with King County who owned the facility, the operator and president of Surrydowns, Debbie Coburn, has not responded to an offer from EPA to discuss the violations and a Complaint has been issued carrying a proposed \$44,925 penalty.

Mark Macintyre
05/18/2005 07:42 AM

To: Downey.Scott@epamail.epa.gov
cc: Duncan.Daniel@epamail.epa.gov, Bussell.Mike@epamail.epa.gov,
Pirzadeh.Michelle@epamail.epa.gov,
Parkin.Richard@epamail.epa.gov,
Deppman.Marianne@epamail.epa.gov,
Albright.Rick@epamail.epa.gov, Eaton.Thomas@epamail.epa.gov,
Philip.Jeff@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Fw: Surreydowns

FYI....MM

to -----\Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mark MacIntyre [mmseattleite@hotmail.com]
Sent: 05/18/2005 10:20 AM
To: Mark Macintyre
Subject: RE: Surreydowns

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According to Scott Downey, EPA TSCA enforcement manager, daycare center owners and operators need to be especially vigilant to protect children from exposure.

"Children and adults use these facilities on a daily basis, so we're talking about potential for serious exposure," says Downey. "Property owners and operators of places like schools and daycare centers really need to 'go the extra mile' to insure that any PCB contamination is recognized and cleaned-up right away. We can't gamble with kid's health."

In July, 2004, EPA was notified by King County that there were potential leaking PCB-laden light ballasts at the Surrydowns facility. Additional concerns of asbestos, plumbing lead solder and flourescent light ballasts were identified and articulated in the report.

EPA inspectors then visited Surrydowns Children's Center, which was owned by King County. EPA obtained samples during the inspections and submitted them to a laboratory for analysis.

The lab results confirmed that there was substantial contamination of liquid PCBs - in concentrations up to 3,300,00 parts per million(ppm) - throughout the facility, including the main

office area, the pre-school 3 area, the pre-school 4 area, the after school area and the pre-kindergarten/kindergarten area.

Subsequent to EPA's involvement, King County has reportedly spent a total of \$81,500 to complete the PCB remediation at the Surrydowns Day Care Center. The EPA is still awaiting contact with (NAME), the center. The Surrydowns Children's Center (has been closed/is now open for business).

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To: Downey.Scott@epamail.epa.gov
cc: Duncan.Daniel@epamail.epa.gov, Bussell.Mike@epamail.epa.gov,
Pirzadeh.Michelle@epamail.epa.gov,
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Albright.Rick@epamail.epa.gov, Eaton.Thomas@epamail.epa.gov,
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